



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

# News Release

April 4, 2006

## **ICE agents seize more than 12 kilograms of cocaine and heroin**

MAYAGUEZ, Puerto Rico— A 27-year-old native of San Juan, Puerto Rico was arrested here yesterday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents for attempting to illegally import heroin and cocaine into the United States.

Samary Del Valle arrived at the Port of Mayaguez from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Del Valle, who was traveling aboard the Caribbean Express ferry, attempted to import more than 7 kilograms of heroin and 5 kilograms of cocaine in violation of Title 18, United States Code (USC), Section 545 and Title 21, USC, Section 952.

Del Valle provided false information on her declaration to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors. Upon inspection of Del Valle's vehicle, CBP inspectors discovered the contraband concealed in a package.

A preliminary ICE investigation revealed that Luis Diaz-Gonzalez, 23, was the intended recipient of the contraband. ICE agents subsequently arrested Diaz-Gonzalez near the municipality of Aguada, Puerto Rico.

"ICE and our Department of Homeland Security partners in Puerto Rico are working together with state and local law enforcement agencies to detect and apprehend those who think that they can break the law and get away with it," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. "Those who try to use Puerto Rico as a springboard to import illegal drugs into the continental United States should know that we will continue using our immigration and customs authorities to arrest them and present their cases for prosecution."

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District Court of Puerto Rico has accepted the case for prosecution. Del Valle and Diaz-Gonzalez are in federal custody at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico awaiting the outcome of their cases.

The public is reminded that a criminal complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is innocent and is entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*